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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, thank You for filling our lives with good things. We praise You for the daily miracles of light and shadows, work and rest, life and love. Lord, we are grateful for Your generosity that brings us high thoughts that uplift and pure hopes that beckon and bind us to You. We even thank You today for disappointments and failures that humble us and for pain and distress that remind us of our need for You.

Finally, we thank You for the women and men of the U.S. Senate, who strive to keep freedom's torch burning. Awaken in them a deeper appreciation for Your loving providence, as You give them a heightened sense of the special role You want them to play in the unfolding drama of American history.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 12 o'clock noon, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to debate the nomination of David Ogden to be Deputy Attorney General. There will be 2 hours for debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 2 p.m., the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Mr. Ogden.

Following the vote, the Senate will consider the nomination of Thomas Perrelli to be Associate Attorney General. Under an agreement that was reached yesterday, the debate will be limited to 90 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled. Upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Perrelli nomination.

We will continue to work on agreements to consider additional nominations this week. I expect to file cloture on a matter to move the lands bill forward again, for the information of all

Senators. A widely popular bill we sent to the House was put on the consent calendar yesterday and failed by two votes. So we will have to start that process over here again. One of the things they are talking about doing is adding another Idaho wilderness provision to that bill and to send it back over here. But I would hope perhaps we can work something out with people who want us to have to go through all the procedural processes. I hope we do not have to do that. If we do, that is what we will do. We will have a vote Monday morning on cloture unless we can get something worked out with those who are opposing this.

Then, next week, that being the case, we will spend some time on the lands bill. I have indicated to the Republican leader we are going to do national service this work period. The House is going to pass that probably next Tuesday, allowing us to get to it toward the end of the week or the following week. And then, of course, the final week we are here we have to do the budget.

PRODUCTIVE TIME

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have had a very productive time in the Senate so far this year. We have done things that have led to the President signing the bills. One of the things we talked about—the first thing we did was the lands bill. We are going to do that again. We passed the Lilly Ledbetter legislation. That has been signed into law. That puts women on a more equal footing with men as regarding pay. We passed the children's health insurance initiative, giving more than 4 million poor children the ability to go to a doctor when they are sick or hurt. We passed the economic recovery package which is now beginning to filter money into the States. It should start happening quite rapidly in the next few weeks. And then, Tuesday evening, we passed the makeup work

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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